

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 DODE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 L-03 /112 W
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4104
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2508

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJ: COURTESY CALL ON DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON THE DEAN OF THE WARSAW
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR STANISLAV PILOTOVITCH,
WENT BEYOND THE TEA AND SMALL TALK DECREED BY PROTOCOL. IN
ADDITION TO THE CUSTOMARY EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, WE
TOUCHED ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

2. NEUTRON BOMB. PILOTOVITCH MENTIONED THE BOMB BEHIND A
SMOKE SCREEN OF SUBJECTS HE SAID WERE "OF NO CONCERN TO THE
POLISH PEOPLE." IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON THIS
SUBJECT HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT
CONFERENCE. WHAT IS NEEDED, I SAID, IS A MEASURE OF TRUST
AND CONFIDENCE, ESPECIALLY ON PART OF SUPERPOWERS. IT
MEAKES LITTLE SENSE TO CONVENE A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE -
WHICH, I NOTED, THE SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED TO THE UN FIVE OR
SIX YEARS AGO - UNTIL THE SUPERPOWERS HAD ACHIEVED MORE
PROGRESS. ANY POLISH CONCERN ABOUT THE NEUTRON BOMB, I
SUGGESTED, WAS BASED IN INACCURATE INFORMATION SUPPLIED
BY OTHERS. USG FINDS INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW WEAPONS
SYSTEM DISTASTEFUL, INCLUDING SS-20. PILOTOVITCH
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INSISTED THAT NEUTRON BOMB HELD SPECIAL HORROR FOR MAN-
KIND. I NOTED THAT, AS A TACTICAL WEAPONS, THE NEUTRON
BOMB WAS MUCH LESS DESTRUCTIVE IN BOTH HUMAN AND PROPERTY
TERMS THAT PRESENT NUCLEAR TACTICAL WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY
THE SS-20. I ADDED THAT THE USG HAD ALREADY CALLED FOR
NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTROLS FOR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS: PILOTOVITCH SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE THE POLES ATTACH TO GOOD TIES WITH THE U.S. AND TO THE WEST IN GENERAL. (COMMENT: THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT THING ABOUT THIS IS THAT HE SAID IT AT ALL. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SOVIETS KEEP THEIR OPINIONS ON THIS SUBJECT TO THEMSELVES, OR AT LEAST TO THEMSELVES AND TO A FEW TRUSTED POLISH OFFICIALS. END COMMENT.)

4. CHINA: PILOTOVITCH SPENT 20 MINUTES CASTIGATING THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THEM AND THE "GREAT, TALENTED CHINESE PEOPLE." HE REFERRED TO CHINA'S AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS, NOT ONLY AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO AGAINST OTHER ASIAN NATIONS. I EXPRESSED MY OPINION THAT THE CHINESE-SOVIET DISPUTE WAS MORE HISTORICAL THAN IDEOLOGICAL IN NATURE, A POINT PILOTOVITCH DID NOT DISPUTE. HE REFERRED TO EARLIER CHINESE DISLIKE FOR BOTH AMERICANS AND SOVIETS AND OBSERVED THAT PEKING'S IRE IS NOW DIRECTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE USSR.

5. THE ROLE OF THE DEAN: I REFERRED TO COMPLAINTS I HAD HEARD SINCE ARRIVING IN WARSAW THE PILOTOVITCH, SPEAKING AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HAD RECENTLY USED LANGUAGE WHICH WESTERN AMBASSADORS FOUND OFFENSIVE. (COMMENT: AT A FAREWELL RECEPTION ON MARCH 21 FOR THE DEPARTING MEXICAN AND IRANIAN AMBASSADORS, PILOTOVITCH SHARPLY CRITICIZED ISRAELI "AGGRESSION" AGAINST LEBANON. THE U.S. EMBASSY
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WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THIS RECEPTION. END COMMENT.) I SAID I HOPED SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD MAR MY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DEAN. PILOTOVITCH RESPONDED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE BASIS OF A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND THAT HE OFTEN DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN REMARKS HE MAKES AS DEAN OF THE CORPS AND AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR. I SAID INTERPRETATION OF SC RESOLUTIONS AND EVENTS WHICH GIVE RISE TO THEM CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY, AS I KNEW FROM MY UN EXPERIENCE. WHILE THE DEAN QUITE PROPERLY COULD REFER TO SC RESOLUTIONS, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO ADD ONE COUNTRY'S INTERPRETATION WHEN DEAN IS SPEAKING FOR DIVERSE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. IF THE DEAN CHOSSES TO SPEAK BOTH AS DEAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR THEN, IN LATTER CAPACITY, HE OPENS HIMSELF TO REPLY. SUCH CONTROVERSIES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE TO THOSE, LARGELY CEREMONIAL, OCCASIONS WHEN HE SPEAKS. THIS LED TO A RELATIVELY STIFF EXCHANGE ON THE PROPER ROLE OF THE DEAN AND AN ATTEMPT ON PILOTOVITCH'S PART TO RE-HASH THE PROBLEMS HE HAD HAD WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIES ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. COMMENT: I WOULD NOT NORMALLY HAVE WANTED TO COVER

ANY OF THESE THREE SUBJECTS DURING AN INITIAL COURTESY
CALL.SINCE PILOTOVITCH TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN BRINGING
UP SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, HOWEVER, I FELT OBLIGED TO STATE
OUR POSITIONS AND TO MAKE MY EXPECTATIONS CLEAR ON
PILOTOVITCH'S RIGHT TO SPEAK ON MY GOVERNMENT'S BEHALF WHEN
HE TALKS AS DEAN OF THE CORPS. ON BALANCE, I CONCLUDE
THAT THIS CALL ESTABLISHED A SERIOUS AND FRANK WORKING
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PILOTOVITCH AND ME. ON BASIS
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS, I WOULD EXPECT HIM TO
BE RELATIVELY WELL BEHAVED FOR NEXT TWO-THREE MONTHS.
SCHAUFLE

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